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SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP FOR DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE: DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC

REF: 06 STATE 156839

¶1. This cable responds to Reftel request for Post's assessment of the suitability of the Dominican Republic for possible pilot projects under the Partnership for Democratic Governance (PDG).

#### Background

¶2. The USG's Democracy and Governance assistance program in the Dominican Republic is focused in three areas: Justice system reform and strengthening, anti-corruption and increasing government transparency, and -- under a new strategy that is under development -- strengthening civil society so that Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have a greater capacity to build coalitions and act in a coordinated manner.

#### Assessment

¶3. Post's answers to Reftel questions are as follows:

Q: Does host government have political will and demonstrated need for PDG services, but lack capacity to provide them itself?

A: Yes, with caveat that government's political will has tended to start and stop.

Q: Would host government be prepared to accept PDG principles and conditions, e.g. accountability measures?

A: Yes.

Q: Could host government provide funding and could project be run with small number of personnel?

A: Yes.

Q: Would project attract interest and funding from other donors?

A: There is some potential for funding from other donors.

Q: Are structures in place for PDG projects?

A: To some degree, given history of European Union assistance to Dominican Republic.

Q: Would project promote south-south cooperation?

A: Yes, the Dominican Republic is in similar position to other countries from which it can learn.

Q: Would project results be better at national or sub-national level?

A: National level.

Q: Should project priority be delivery of core state

functions or social services?

A: Post recommends priority be placed on developing core state governance functions.

(U) This report and additional information can be found on Embassy Santo Domingo's SIPRNET site,  
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/wha/santodomingo/>  
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